

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046692
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011
DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:EREHFELD
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:EREHFELD
-----129794 231424Z /40
R 230707Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046692

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 1685 ACTION STATE INFO BONN PARIS ROME
FEB 17.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 01685

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, MARR
SUBJECT: CONTINUED SQUABBLE OVER NAMSA POSTS

REF: USNATO 01552

1. SYG LUNS APPROACHED AMBASSADOR EVENING FEB. 16 ON
QUESTION OF NAMSA OFFICES. HE APPEALED TO US TO WITHDRAW
ITS CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMAN OF NAMSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON
GROUNDS OF IMPASSE BETWEEN FRG AND ITALY WITH RESPECT POST
OF NAMSA GEN. MGR. VOTE IN RECENT PRIVATE MEETING OF NAC
HAD BEEN 11-2 IN FAVOR FRG CANDIDATE. ITALIANS WERE NOW
TAKING POSITION THAT THEY WOULD WITHDRAW IN FAVOR FRG
ONLY IN EVENT THEY RECEIVED POST OF CHAIRMAN OF BOARD.
LUNS URGED, THEREFORE, THAT US WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDACY IN
ORDER RESOLVE IMPASSE.

2. BENNETT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS PROPOSAL, COM-
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MENTING THAT ITALIANS WERE GETTING IN THE HABIT OF POSING
THIS KIND OF ULTIMATUM AND RECALLING RECENT IMBROGLIO
OVER ITALIAN DEMAND (SUCCESSFUL) TO REPLACE PANSAS AS
DEP SYG WITH PETRIGNANI. BENNETT POINTED OUT US HAD
ALWAYS HELD POST OF NAMSA CHAIRMAN AND THAT INDEED WE HAD
ALWAYS FUNDED THE POSITION. THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY
INTEREST IN THE JOB ON PART OF OTHERS, AND IT WAS GENER-

ALLY CONCEDED AMERICAN CHAIRMEN HAD DONE GOOD JOB. ACCORDINGLY, WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO HOLD THE POSITION. IN HIS VIEW, A COUNTRY (ITALY) WHICH HAD ONLY ATTRACTED ONE VOTE (FRANCE) OTHER THAN ITS OWN FOR ITS CANDIDATE, AGAINST TEN COLLECTED BY FRG IN FREE COMPETITION, SHOULD GRACEFULLY WITHDRAW. LUNS CLAIMED PORTUGAL ALSO SUPPORTED ITALY (PORTUGAL ABSTAINED IN LAST POLL IN NAC). OK, SAID BENNETT, 10-2; THE GERMAN CANDIDATE WAS STILL THE OVERWHELMING FAVORITE. HOWEVER, ASSERTED LUNS, ITALY WAS UNDERREPRESENTED IN NATO STAFF. HE APPEALED AGAIN FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US CANDIDATE, SAYING WE HAD MADE OUR WISHES KNOWN LATE IN THE DAY AND THIS HAD UPSET ITALIAN AMB NO END. BENNETT COUNTERED THAT WE HAD ALWAYS HELD THE POST, AND REITERATED THERE HAD HERETOFORE BEEN NO INTEREST IN IT BY OTHERS. ITALIANS HAD QUITE RECENTLY DISCLAIMED INTEREST AND HAD INDEED SOUGHT TO PERSUADE GERMANS TO GO AFTER IT SO AS TO CLEAR NAMSA GENERAL MANAGER POST FOR ITALY. WE HAD HAD NO REASON TO THINK THERE WOULD BE OTHER CANDIDATES.

3. IN RESPONSE LUNS' CONTINUED URGING -- HE SEEMS TO FEEL HE HAS TO "DO SOMETHING" FOR ITALIAN AMB. AS DEAN OF NATO CORPS -- BENNETT SAID HE WOULD OF COURSE REPORT REQUEST TO DEPT, BUT HE COULD NOT HOLD OUT HOPE WE WOULD WITHDRAW CANDIDACY FOR POST WE HAD ALWAYS FILLED TO GENERAL SATISFACTION.
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4. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS RE CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMAN OF NAMSA BOARD. FROM HERE WE SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD WITHDRAW MERELY TO MOLLIFY PRETENSIONS OF ITALIAN DEAN AT NATO, EVEN THOUGH HE WILL NO DOUBT PRODUCE TANTRUMS AND ALARUMS IF WE MAINTAIN OUR POSITION, AND POSSIBLY A RENEWED EFFORT BY ITALIANS, SUPPORTED BY FRENCH, TO DENY POST OF NAMSA GEN MGR TO FRG. THERE WILL BE CONTINUED PRESSURE FROM LUNS, AND GERMANS WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO HAVE US YIELD SO AS TO ENSURE THEIR GETTING THE NAMSA JOB. IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO RETAINING THE POST OF NAMSA CHAIRMAN. GLITMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE046692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EREHFELD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0269
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780221/aaaaarmg.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f3c08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 USNATO 1552
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3502183
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUED SQUABBLE OVER NAMSA POSTS
TAGS: MARR, NATO
To: LUXEMBOURG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f3c08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014